

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 NIC-01

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 SCCT-01 OPR-02 SY-05 A-01 OC-05 CCO-00

USSS-00 SCA-01 AF-06 /097 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2083

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MILI, PO

SUBJ: ARREST SITUATION

REFS: (A) LISBON 1350

(B) LISBON 1363

(C) LISBON 1392

(D) LISBON 1389

SUMMARY: ARRESTS OF PERSONS ALLEGEDLY IMPLICATED IN MARCH 11
COUP ATTEMPT CONTINUING. THREE MAJOR MILITARY PERSONALITIES
FIGURE PROMINENTLY IN PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON COUP INVOLVEMENT.
TOP/BANKING/FINANCIAL FIGURES AMONG CIVILIANS DETAINED.
END SUMMARY.

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1. LISTS OF ARRESTEES PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS NOW INCLUDE 39

MILITARY AND 40 CIVILIAN NAMES (SEPTTEL) WITH FURTHER DETENTIONS EXPECTED.

2. AMONG MOST PROMINENT PERSONS CURRENTLY BEING SOUGHT IS MAJOR SANCHES OSORIO, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (PDC), FORMER MINISTER OF MASS COMMUNICATION, AND SPINOLA CONFIDANT. PRESS ACCOUNT ALLEGES HE LEFT PORTUGAL FOR SPAIN, TOGETHER WITH MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY. PDC DIRECTORATE ISSUED PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT IT LOST CONTACT WITH HIM AS OF MARCH 10 (DAY BEFORE COUP ATTEMPT). EMBASSY SOURCES STATE THAT SANCHES OSORIO IS OUT OF COUNTRY, HAVING LEFT OF OWN VOLITION FOR UNKNOWN DESTINATION, AND THAT WIFE AND FOUR CHILDREN REMAIN IN PORTUGAL.

3. GENERAL GALVAO DE MELO, CONTROVERSIAL FORMER MEMBER OF NATIONAL SALVATION JUNTA AND ORGANIZER OF ILL-FATED SEPT. 28 DEMONSTRATION TO SUPPORT SPINOLA, CONTINUES UNDER DETENTION, BUT OFFICIALLY ABSOLVED OF IMPLICATION IN COUP.

4. LT. COLONEL ALMEIDA BRUNO, MOST PROMINENT MEMBER OF SPINOLIST GROUP OF OFFICERS PICKED UP MARCH 12 (REF A), CONTINUES UNDER ARREST AS PRESS CARRIES STORY ORIGINATING WITH MAJOR JAIME NEVES THAT BRUNO WAS QUIETLY AT WORK IN NEVES' COMMAND HEAD-QUARTERS AT MOMENT OF COUP. BRUNO VOLUNTARILY TURNED HIMSELF IN ONCE HE AWARE OF ARREST WARRANT AGAINST HIM.

5. ARRESTS OF PROMINENT BANKING/FINANCIAL COMMUNITY FIGURES REPORTED IN REF B, PARA.5; REF D; AND REF. C, PARA. 7. EARLIER REPORT THAT BOTH JORGE AND JOSE DE MELO ARRESTED HAS BEEN CORRECTED. APPARENTLY JORGE DE MELO IS DETAINED, BROTHER JOSE CONTINUES AT LIBERTY.

6. MISCELLANEOUS: COMMISSION OF INQUIRY NAMED TO INVESTIGATE COUP ATTEMPT IS UNDER DIRECTION OF JUNTA MEMBER ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO; RADIO REPORT STATED THAT GENERAL SPINOLA'S BROTHER WAS ARRESTED AT AIRPORT UPON HIS "RETURN," SPINOLISTA CAPTAIN SALGUEIRO MAIA, RUMORED TO BE UNDER ARREST, IS NOT; RADIO IS REPORTING THAT PORTUGUESE CITIZENS AND FOREIGNERS RESIDENT IN PORTUGAL ARE NOT BEING ALLOWED TO LEAVE COUNTRY.
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